

**KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)**  
**November 21, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance**

David Baker  
Joe Casalini  
Suellen Mele  
Max Pope  
Ray Schlien  
Relaena Sindelar  
Judy Stenberg  
Dave Whitley

**Others in Attendance**

Gemma Alexander  
Ann Berry Smith  
Jeff Gaisford  
Jane Gateley  
Jerry Hardebeck  
Kathy Hashagen  
Sabrina Kang  
Kevin Kiernan  
Sean Kronberg  
Thea Severn  
Diane Yates  
Bill Ziegler

**Action Items**

**Lines 6-8:** Election of SWAC member to chair the meeting.  
**Lines 13-14:** Election of Vice Chair.  
**Lines 18-19:** Approval of September minutes.  
**Lines 95-100:** Nomination of Jerry Hardebeck to the vacant citizen position.

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Intergovernmental Liaison Diane Yates noted that the Chair was not present, and the position of Vice Chair was vacant, as Jerry Hardebeck had resigned after he left Cleanscapes. She called for a motion nominating a member to chair today's meeting.

**SWAC member David Baker nominated SWAC member Joe Casalini to chair the meeting.**

*The nomination passed unanimously.*

Casalini called the meeting to order. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**Nomination and Election of Vice Chair**

**SWAC member Relaena Sindelar nominated Casalini for Vice Chair.**

*The nomination passed by consensus.*

17 **Approval of September Minutes**

18 **Baker moved approval of the September minutes.**

19 *The minutes were approved unanimously.*

21 **Updates: SWD / MSWMAC / Other**

22 SWD Updates

23 Solid Waste Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported that Executive Sims has negotiated a  
24 tentative agreement with the Labor Council to furlough most King County workers for ten  
25 days in 2009. The King Street offices will be impacted by the proposed furlough days. The  
26 transfer stations and landfill will remain open because it is not clear that their closure would  
27 result in a net savings.

28  
29 One of the furloughs has been scheduled on June 19<sup>th</sup>, which is a regular SWAC meeting  
30 day. The committee will discuss scheduling an alternative meeting date early next year.

31  
32 The division continues to experience tonnage declines as the economy slows, which Ann  
33 Berrysmith will discuss in her presentation on the 2009 budget.

34  
35 Over twenty prime contractors attended the pre-bid meeting for the Bow Lake Transfer  
36 Station project. The division received eleven bids, all of which were under the engineer's  
37 estimate of \$14 million. SWAC member Relaena Sindelar asked if the county is required to  
38 accept the low bid. Kiernan responded that the county is required to accept the lowest  
39 responsible bidder.

40  
41 Interviews with shortlisted consultants for Factoria Transfer Station will be scheduled soon.

42  
43 The division has received several awards recently. They include awards for the Shoreline  
44 Recycling and Transfer Station from the Northwest Construction Consumer Council for the  
45 *Green Project of the Year* and the *Grand Award – Project of the Year*. Shoreline also  
46 received the American Institute of Architects *Honorable Mention – What Makes it Green?*  
47 and the *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum* designation.

The division was the recipient of two *Totem Awards* from the Public Relations Society of America for the television ads supporting the *Recycle More It's Easy to Do* campaign. That campaign also earned a *Silver* award from the Solid Waste Association of America (SWANA) for Communication Education and Marketing. SWANA presented the division with two awards for the Integrated System Plan; the *Silver* award for Planning and Management and the *Innovation* award.

SWD also received the Waste News *Environmental Award – Government Category*. The award recognizes a public entity that has fostered environmental progress through programs, laws and other governmental initiatives.

SWD staff Gemma Alexander is leaving the division. Committee members thanked her for her excellent support.

#### MSWMAC Update

Kiernan reported that MSWMAC provided comments on the Waste Prevention and Recycling (WPR) chapter of the Comp Plan at their last meeting. They, like SWAC, have the opportunity to provide additional written comments on the chapter via email to Yates through December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Other

SWAC member Suellen Mele reported that the E-cycle Washington program will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This program is funded by manufacturers and provides free recycling of electronics across the state. She noted that this is the culmination of efforts that began nationally in 2001.

Mele also reported that the Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation are working toward a medicine return bill in the state legislature in 2009. More information about this effort is available at

[http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/UnwantedMedReturn\\_1pgr\\_Nov08.pdf](http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/UnwantedMedReturn_1pgr_Nov08.pdf)

80 **Membership: Nomination for Citizen Position**

81 Yates noted that four members of SWAC have been appointed to another three year term on  
82 the committee: Bill Beck, Relaena Sindelar, Ray Schlienzen, and Dave Whitley. Bob Dixon,  
83 Joan McGilton, David Baker and Max Pope are still awaiting reappointment. Paperwork  
84 for the appointment of Sean Kronberg and Bill Ziegler is at the Executive's office.

85  
86 There are three current vacancies: a citizen position formerly held by Carolyn Prentice, a  
87 waste management industry position formerly held by Jerry Hardebeck, and a manufacturer  
88 in King County position formerly held by Don Freas. Despite recruitment efforts, no one  
89 has applied for the manufacturer's position. Mele suggested that the division contact the  
90 Washington State Recycling Association (WRSA) for recommendations.

91  
92 Though it is normal practice for SWAC Chair and Vice Chair to review applicants for the  
93 committee, that step is not required.

94  
95 **SWAC member Judy Stenberg nominated Jerry Hardebeck for the vacant citizen's**  
96 **position.**

97  
98 Mele commented that Hardebeck's perspective on sustainability is very valuable to SWAC.

99  
100 *The nomination passed unanimously.*

101  
102 Yates will forward Hardebeck's application package to the Executive for appointment.

103  
104 **SWD 2009 Budget: Ann Berry Smith**

105 Finance and Administration Manager Ann Berry Smith reported the original 2008 budget  
106 was based on 1,048,000 tons of garbage. Since late 2007 the division has noted a  
107 continuing decrease in tonnage and taken action to reduce spending to a level  
108 commensurate with revenue. Tonnage in 2008 is now projected to be between 950,000 and  
109 960,000 tons. SWAC member David Whitley asked if the division expects a deficit in

2008. Kiernan responded that no deficit is expected. Spending reductions taken throughout the year will allow division to maintain an appropriate fund balance.

The 2009 budget, prepared in the summer of 2008, was based on a projected tonnage of 987,000 tons. Kiernan noted that the division will continue to monitor revenues in 2009 and adjust expenditures.

Kiernan noted that the division has achieved reductions in labor expenditures by decreasing the number of hours worked by Regular Part Time (RPT) employees. This decrease in hours resulted in a decrease of 10.4 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) without layoffs.

Berrysmith noted other changes in the budget between 2008 and 2009. Interest income has decreased in keeping with changes in the financial markets. The Landfill Gas to Energy income budgeted in 2008 was not realized. The program is expected to go online in the first quarter of 2009 and the budget includes six months of revenue from that source.

In expenditures, the amount needed for the Landfill Reserve Fund is based on tonnage and has thus decreased from the amount budgeted in 2008. The transportation costs are budgeted to increase. Berrysmith noted that the budget was written in July when diesel costs were at their peak. A higher discharge fee for waste water treatment has resulted in an increase in the Landfill Gas/Wastewater budget.

Mele noted that a subcommittee of the Washington State SWAC is considering alternate financing methods for recycling over the long term. As recycling rates increase and disposal rates decrease over time the current funding system will no longer function effectively. Kiernan said the cost assessment for the Comp Plan will look at this issue.

Casalini commented that the value for recycled materials has experienced a rapid decline. He suggested that markets for recyclable materials do not appear to be stable enough to fund recycling, and other alternatives should be considered.

In response to a request, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford said that he would make the PowerPoint presentation called Recycling Markets 201: Growing Pains Become Slowing Pains from Jerry Powell, Editor of Resource Recycling Magazine available. The presentation is available at <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrr/swd/Recycling201JerryPowell.pdf>

**Comp Plan Working Chapter Review: WPR**

Severn noted that this is only one chapter of the plan. The chapter still includes some placeholders. Information highlighted in yellow still needs to be finalized and the entire draft plan will go through graphics before it is ready for distribution. While the division may update parts of the plan to reflect current conditions, at some point it must be finalized. The plan is broad enough to allow the division to respond to change.

Written comments on the chapter may be sent to Yates until December 1<sup>st</sup>. SWAC will have another opportunity to review this chapter as part of the entire draft plan.

In response to a question from Whitley, Gaisford noted that no agreement has been reached between the Solid Waste Division, the Department of Ecology, and the City of Seattle on a definition of “beneficial use.” Kiernan noted that this discussion is complicated by evolving technologies that generate energy from solid waste.

Mele noted that there are similar issues regarding the definition of recycling. Recycling one material may have a better environmental impact over time than recycling other materials. Recycling priorities should be based on environmental impact. Gaisford remarked that WPR-7 policy at the beginning of the chapter attempts to address that type of issue. Casalini said sustainability should be addressed regionally, considering the effects of transport on the costs and benefits of recycling.

Kiernan said that the Comp Plan is revised every five years. Assuming that the current plan is approved in 2010, the division will update the plan in 2015 and has changed the dates of the overall recycling goals to match.

In response to a question Kiernan said that amending the plan requires a process similar to approving the plan. Instead, the Comp Plan is written broadly enough to allow the division to respond to changing market and economic conditions.

Mele suggested that additional information about carpet recycling be added to the plan.

Whitley noted that “C&D” needs to be changed to “organics” in the recommendations on page 38.

Whitley suggested changing the sidebar on page 30 to clarify that C&D will not be included in the recycling rate. Kiernan noted that there is no consistency between solid waste agencies about what is included in recycling rates. The division has historically excluded C&D in the recycling rate and will continue to do so for internal consistency.

Casalini said that the chapter shows a tremendous amount of work and thought on the part of the division. Severn said the division’s technical writer, Jane Gateley, has been working full time on the Comp Plan. The plan will include a glossary. SWAC members are invited to identify words or phrases to include.

### **Open Forum**

There were no comments during open forum.

### **Adjourn**

The next meeting is on December 19. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff